Bangladesh have made favourable response to our approaches for settlement of the issue?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI MADHAVSINH SOLANKI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The Government of Bangladesh have maintained that the question of settlement of compensation of refugees from erstwhile East Pakistan would have to await the settlement of the assets and liabilities issue between Bangladesh and Pakistan.

Difficulties being faced by Punjabi Poet in the matter of passport

2757. SHRI RAMACHANDRAN PILLAI Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any complaint of harassment of a renowned Punjabi Poet of village Vattu-Chak, P.O. Dhilwan (Kapurthala), Punjab relating to his passport No. 10/ 88408/81/PL section issued by Jalandhar Passport Office; and

(b) if so, what steps have been taken to and the harassment of the said writer who is crusading against terrorism and separatism?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI MADHAVSINH SOLANKI): (a) Yes, Sir. A complaint was received that passport of Shri Harbhajan Singh Hundal was seized by Senior Superintendent of Police, Kapurthala, Punjab.

(b) The complaint has been forwarded to the Punjab Government for redressal of grievences of Shri Hundal.

Talks with Iraq for settlement of dues of Indian workers

2758. SHRI SAMAR MUKHERJEE : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of India have taken up with the Government of Iraq the issue of settlement of dues of Indian workers who were working in that country with Messers Anice Construction Service Limited;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that representatives from EXIM Bank and E.C.G.C. are holding discussions with the Central Bank of Iraq on the above issue; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the progress made in the discussions?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI MADHAVSINH SOLANKI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. We have taken up with Iraq the question of payment of its dues to our companies.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. Iraq has indicated that it is in no position to pay its dues until petroleum exports are resumed.

हज यात्री

@2759. **डा० अबरार अहमद:** क्या विदेश मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या हज यात्रियों के लिए सभी तैयारियां पूरी कर ली गई हैं;

(ख) यदि हां, तो उन व्यक्तियों की संख्या कितनी है जिनकी इस हज यात्रा पर जाने की संभावना है, कितनी विदेशी मुद्रा की मंजूरी दी जाने की संभावना है और उनकी ठहरने संबंधी व्यवस्था पर कितनी धनराशि व्यय की जाएगी;

(ग) हज यात्रियों में से कितनों की समुद्री जहाज द्वारा यात्रा करने तथा कितने हज यात्रियों की वायुयान द्वारा यात्रा करने की संभावना है; और

(घ) क्या सरकार को इस कार्य में लगी प्राईवेट कम्पनियों की जानकारी है, यदि हां, तो उनका ब्यौरा क्या है?

विदेश मंत्री (श्री माधवसिंह सोलंकी) (क) और (ख) जी नहीं। तैयारियां चल रही हैं। लगभग 35000 लोग भारत से हज यात्रा पर जाते हैं जिनमें से 24,000 लोगों के लिए प्रबंध हज समिति, बम्बई के

@ पृथक्, अतारांकित प्रश्न 1566, 6 मार्च, 1992 से स्थानान्तरित।